

Industrial Worker

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EDUCATION ORGANIZATION EMANCIPATION

Job Corps or Job Sharks?

The Keystone Job Corps Center in Drums, Pennsylvania, is continuing its efforts to crush IWW organizing by student employees. Fellow Worker Joe Marra was "completed" by Keystone administrators in September, even though he was far from finishing the college program in which he was enrolled.

With no job, no place of his own to stay and the readjustment check from Job Corps "in the mail," Joe needed a job - fast. He trained on Keystone Job Corps Center in the business and clerical trade, was an honor student, and was one of 30 people on the 720-person center enrolled in the college program. A few days after arriving in Philadelphia, where IWW organizers had arranged a place for him to stay until he could get on his feet, Joe went to the Job Corps placement office to find a job. He was told that an interview for a \$10/hour job as a telephone operator was being arranged for a few days later.

The interview was for a \$7/hour job as a telemarketer selling long distance service, which, after one week, fell to \$5/hour plus commission. Joe called Job Corps to let them know that the job they had sent him to interview for was quite different than what they had described. "Well, they told us it was for \$10 an hour..." the placement officer answered, exasperated by yet another complaint.

It turns out that the Philadelphia placement center has no real system of checking on jobs, the offer the employer advertises, or the conditions and type of work is in place. Joe, desperate for work, took the job. Even after his complaint to Job Corps, people are still being placed into this job from Keystone and other Job Corps centers.

When the Job Corps program was first created in 1964, it trained young people for work in well-paying trades, often with the help of craft unions. That legacy continues today to an extent, but as multi-million dollar corporations seize more and more control of the program, Job Corps enrollees find themselves being channeled into low-wage jobs with little chance for advancement. Management and Training Corporation, a spin-off of Thiokol, manages the Keystone Center and produces the official publication for Job Corps, *Job Corps In* continued on page 10



In This Issue...

In November We Remember...

Who Needs the AFL?

Florida Youth Center Staff Choose IWW

World Labor News



News Item: President Clinton seeks "fast track" for Latin America "free trade" deals...

Solidarity with Mersey dockers...

Pickets turn back scab cargo

As the struggle of the locked-out Liverpool dockers entered its second year, supporters around the world have stepped up their efforts to bring effective solidarity to bear against the Mersey Docks & Harbour Company and shipping lines which do business with it.

After a 32-hour delay in Oakland, California, caused by pickets supporting the sacked Mersey dockers, the Nedlloyd "Neptune Jade" was forced to sail Oct. 2 without unloading 160 containers including 7 from Thamesport, where Mersey Docks acts as Port Authority through its 100% subsidiary Medway Ports. The ship was later turned away by pickets when it attempted to dock in Vancouver and is now en route to Japan, where dockers pledge it will not be touched.

The Pacific Maritime Association tried and failed to obtain a temporary restraining order barring picketing against ILWU members Robert Irminger and Jack Heyman, the Labor Party's Golden Gate Chapter, the Peace and Freedom Party, and the Laney College Labor Studies department. The organizations were apparently chosen because they had large banners at the picketline. An injunction limiting the number of pickets was issued, but proved ineffectual.

The P.M.A. has also sued pickets for damages. "I think they're angry because our action was very effective," Irminger says. "We forced the Neptune Jade to leave port... They can see there's going to be trouble everywhere with cargo loaded by the Mersey Dock and Harbour Company and its subsidiaries. We're not going to give up, and things won't end here."

ILWU Local 10 spokesman Steve Stallone said the union was determined "to get shipping companies to stop doing business with ports that are screwing the unions."

Shipping industry officials said the work stoppage was costing the freighter's owners

as much as \$50,000 a day. "It's very expensive for these vessels to get behind schedule and sit idle," said Terry Lane, vice president of labor relations for the Pacific Maritime Association.

The picketing depended on fast organization. LabourNet reports that the IWW contributed half of the dozen activists who stopped the first shift when ILWU Locals 10 and 34 refused to cross the line. Wobblies were to be found on the line throughout the three days of picketing. The company was told that there were two grievances: scab cargo and a health and safety risk to members from the picket line. The PMA called in an arbitrator who ruled against the "scab cargo" claim but upheld the health and safety risk in view of the evident anger displayed on the picket line. The ruling was upheld on several successive shifts, although on two occasions when an arbitrator ruled the line could be safely crossed longshoremen refused to do so.

With another Nedlloyd vessel, the "Chesapeake Bay" due in, ILWU Local 10 declared it would not cross the line to work either ship if the "Neptune Jade" remained in port. It moved out to the harbour until the "Chesapeake Bay" was unloaded, returning

to port the next day in an attempt to slip past pickets.

"Not a stick of work was done on this ship," noted IWW member Colin Dewey, urging fellow workers in other ports to arrange a proper welcome for the "Neptune Jade" and its scab cargo. "This action should be seen as a victory for the working class, and the international solidarity movement begun, and continued, by the rank-and-file union members worldwide... Let there be no mistake, this was accomplished with, and through the efforts of grass-roots, rank-and-file activists ready and willing to put themselves on the line."

The "Neptune Jade" then sailed for Vancouver, where members of ILWU Local 500 refused to cross a picket line Oct. 4. The shipping company had hoped to unload its scab cargo there and have it trucked to the San Francisco Bay Area.

"Considering the reception the Neptune Jade had received from our American brothers and sisters, we were surprised that the shipping company would try to discharge its cargo in a Canadian port, when they knew that the ILWU would have no part of it," said Richard Rondpre, president of ILWU continued on page 6

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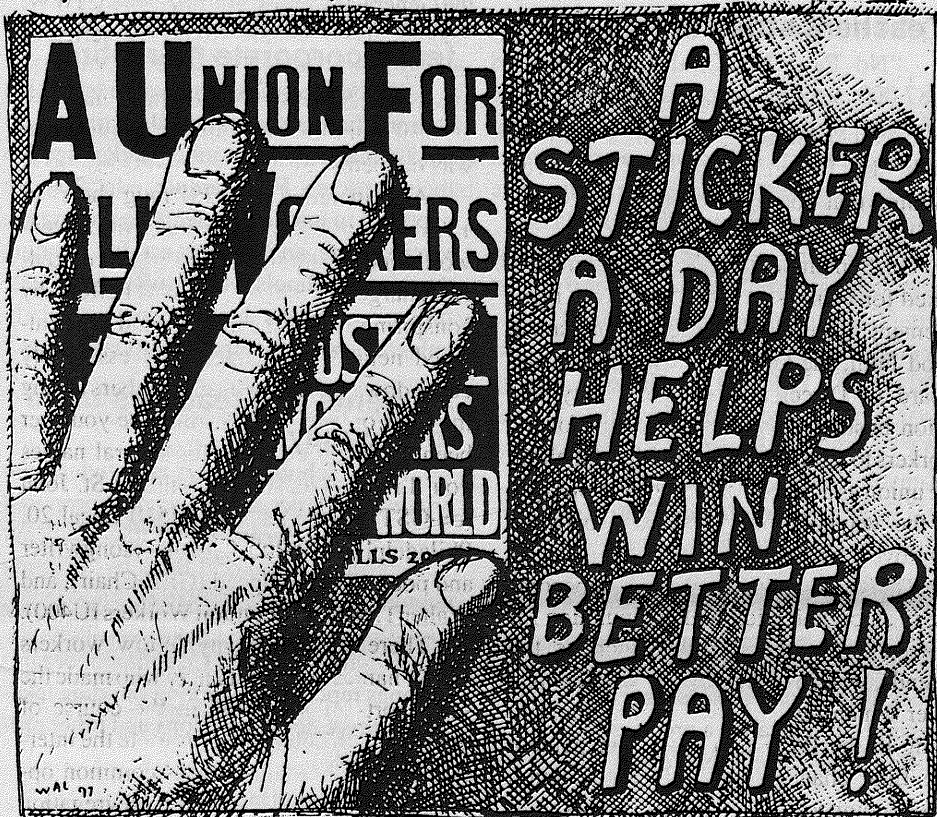
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Available from IWW Branches

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OUTSIDE U.S.

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Labor History

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Libros Sin Fronteras goes IWW

Ten years ago the owner/director of Libros Sin Fronteras, Michael Shapiro, began his business of importing Latin American books and distributing them nationwide to schools, libraries and individuals. What made this venture especially unique was that it had been intended to be a solidarity project with Nicaragua. The original intent was to break the cultural blockade that President Reagan had imposed as a means of undermining the Sandinista government. The election of the Industrial Workers of the World as the union for the workers at Libros creates yet another bond of solidarity to all people who believe in workers rights.

The workers at Libros, located in Olympia, Washington, had been seeking a personnel policy for two years. They sought a written policy that would include basic issues as a disciplinary procedure, a system for raises and criteria for promotions. When Shapiro tired of these negotiation meetings he unilaterally imposed his final version of the policy, threatening to fire any workers who did not sign his version. At this point a majority of the workers unionized. During the informal negotiations some workers did make headway on benefits. These included an establishment of vacation time and three holidays. On the other hand, part-time workers lost benefits that had previously been granted, including medical care by raising the minimal number of hours needed to qualify.

The union drive at Libros should be a call to the community that even workplaces with a progressive mission can and should unionize. Workers chose to go the NLRB route. Six authorization cards were collected and five out of the seven employees voted for the I.W.W. to represent them after Shapiro refused to voluntarily recognize the union. [Ironically, he then complained to the local daily about the expense he incurred hiring union-busting lawyers and filling out paperwork. The IWW win led the Sept. 17 business page of The Olympian, along with an article on the IWW's recent membership growth - though the reporter somehow got out name wrong.]

The workers chose the IWW for two reasons. First, dues for the I.W.W. are extremely low. Second was the democratic nature of the union. Rather than a hierarchical, bureaucratic union workers develop, organize, and carry out their own campaign. The Wobblies do not treat unionism as simply another kind of business, as many larger unions do. Instead workers in their own particular workplace understand their collective interest first-hand and act upon that interest in what they determine to be the most appropriate method.

Around Our Union

Local Wobblies have had a busy year, with the Libros campaign following on the heels of another union drive at the Fish Tale Ale Microbrewery. There have also been members from around the Puget Sound region who have participated in the Centralia Mural Committee to commemorate the murder of fellow Wobbly Nathan Wesley Everest, who was slain in 1919 by American Legionnaires. The IWW also has two other organizing drives in motion in Olympia.

Youth Center staff go Wobbly

Most of the staffers at the Third Place youth-run youth center joined up with the IWW in April. We didn't do it to raise our wages, since we are all-volunteer despite our \$30,000+ annual budget. We joined to make our connection to radical currents more explicit. In many ways the Third Place embodies a vision of "the new society" while still recognizing that we are in the shell of the "old."

We attempt to educate ourselves and to rotate tasks to break up power dichotomies we are explicitly anti-racist, anti-sexist and anti-homophobic and pro-young people we make decisions in common, almost entirely by consensus, at weekly meetings.

We also educate the surrounding community on important issues - among other things this has included politically conscious music, a showing of "The Good Fight" followed by a presentation by two local Abraham Lincoln Brigade veterans, sponsoring two youth liberation conferences which had over 100 participants each, a biweekly column in the local (less corporate) newspaper, a presentation by a professor from Mexico and a radical college student on the Zapatistas and other radical currents in Mexico, \$900 worth of socially-conscious magazine subscriptions, a social justice library with over 100 books, and an upcoming art display and presentation by the local boy-inclusive Riot Grrrl chapter. Most importantly we talk about our method, which largely destroys two primary myths in this culture. One myth is that children and



Wobblies picketed Borders Books' new store in Braintree, Mass., letting the union-busting bookseller know that we never forget. After picketing in front of the store for half an hour, Borders called the police and forced us out to the driveway. Borders recently signed a contract covering workers in its Lakeview (Chicago) store, the first Borders to vote for union representation. Borders is continuing to fight union efforts at several of its stores.

young people are inferior to adults and incapable of self-organization or initiative. The second (related) myth that our project challenges is that people in general are incapable of creating serious projects unless motivated by immediate self-interest and controlled by a strict hierarchical system.

An article I wrote in one of our columns made our connection to radical currents more explicit, discussing our reasons for joining the IWW. Some of the reasons I included had to do with general labor issues such as rising profits and stagnant and dropping wages. The other primary reason cited was that the IWW embodies many of the principles that we stand for - especially focused around self-organization.

The article generated some strong reactions in Venice, which is a retirement city in "right to work" Florida. None of the public reactions were favorable. My father said we had alienated ourselves from elite support. Letters to the editor suggested that parents prevent kids from visiting our "communist" youth center. Despite this reaction we are not discouraged, and will continue with other outreach to self-identified progressives, and attempt to encourage others to see the connection between freedom and workplace democracy.

Despite my father's prediction, a County sub-committee has just recommended us for a new grant for \$22,000, which would cover all of our basic expenses. We have previously received money from the County

government, the local Foundation (created through the sale of City Hospital to the Catholic Church), a NYC law firm's foundation, and many community donations (we are a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization).

We have just started organizing an international conference of youth-run, radical, and/or democratic youth centers. There are at least 10 others that we know about, all in Europe, and hopefully two new ones will be starting up soon in Florida. The conference will serve to focus and support what we see as the essential reason for existence of our youth center and of the IWW. The main point is that humans are creative and capable of non-hierarchical self-organization, and in fact that it is only in creative self-organization that we are fully human. In addition the conference will support an internationalist outlook, and make possible skill sharing between the youth centers. For instance, we will be starting a radio station soon, and would be able to do a workshop on starting one at another youth center.

Obviously, the labor movement will be unsuccessful without a broad understanding that the movement is for the good of all. Locally, for our tiny IWW seed of a radical labor movement, community support and community coalitions will make or break any real hope. And that community support can only come about as a result of connections between labor and community institutions that help to foster increased understanding and empowerment on both sides. The Third Place is a good example of this, I believe, as are the many Wobbly and Food Not Bombs organizers. We are a positive vision, an explicit connection, and an educating force. In the short-term we in the IWW need to create much stronger bases of radicalized waged workers, while continuing to recognize that non-workplace projects are also important. So that in the long-term we can all enjoy the freedom, fun and camaraderie that characterize the Third Place, youth-run youth center of Venice, Florida.

— Andy

Wooden Shoe Books to reopen

In early November, Wooden Shoe Books will again provide Philadelphia with radical books, periodicals and activist resources. The store was destroyed in February by an electrical fire, and since then members of the Wooden Shoe collective have been fundraising to restart. The Shoe was a major part of the grassroots political scene in Philadelphia for the 21 years it operated and became an IWW Job Shop in 1993, sparking the formation of a Philadelphia General Membership Branch soon afterwards. Friends of the Shoe are currently hard at work preparing for its grand reopening, and look forward to once again having the bookstore as a center of political activity in the city. The new location is just north of South Street at 508 S. 5th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147 tel: (215) 413-0999.

Clarification

Last month's issue included an article by John Persak on the Centralia mural situation. FW Persak advises us that he had not intended his report for publication, and takes exception to its editing.

PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life. **Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.**

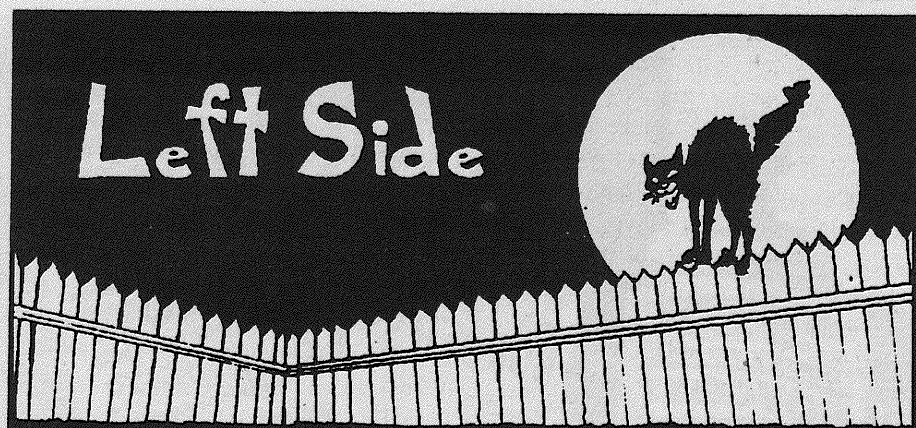
We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system." **It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism.** The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with the capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

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On the last weekend of September, yours truly had been invited to a poetry festival in Bisbee, Arizona, for the commemoration of the eightieth anniversary of the infamous deportations of striking miners who were being organized by the IWW. Your scribe, being a Wob, was invited to impart a bit of authenticity to the observance.

Preferring to make trips overland rather than flying the friendly skies, I booked my passage to get there a few days prior to the festival. I was also previously and painfully aware of the vague punctuality of passenger service of Freedomland rail service. Where in other countries, rail passenger service is being constantly improved, such service here in Freedomland is going progressively down the tubes.

The simple answer is that the railroads make more money selling space by the cubic foot than by fares from individual humans. Because of this, a passenger train may be shuttled off on a siding in order to let a freight train have priority. A wonderful example of the overwhelming dominance of the profit motive this is! At many areas, even without the interference of freight trains, there are stretches where the passenger train creeps along at a snail's pace, due to the lack of adequate maintenance of the road beds. The freights, being heavier, do not have the same risks with high speeds. Arriving in Benson, Arizona, the stop closest to Bisbee, six hours late in the wee hours of the morning, I was fortunate to find someone waiting for me whose wife drove to Bisbee the following day.

Bisbee is a fair-sized town beautifully situated in the mountains, with the appearance of a miniature San Francisco. The surrounding countryside is spectacular with the exception of a large, open pit that is an ugly gash between the mountains. This pit was left by the notorious Phelps-Dodge company, which is presently contemplating tearing down another mountain to leave yet another open wound in the Earth.

Bisbee is a collection of small towns administered by one municipality. The original town that is nestled between the mountains is known as Old Bisbee, where can be found much of the flavor of an authentic mining town. It is here that you encounter old-fashioned saloons along with hard-bitten miners as well as the tourists, some clad in Bermuda shorts and sandals, others trying to pass themselves off as Westerners but easily differentiated from the real article. Gift shops abound as well as coffee houses.

However, because of its being off the main tourist track or because of a certain pride on the part of the native Bisbeans, the town has yet to be messed up by the tourist industry, unlike Tombstone which lies between Bisbee and Benson.

Fabled Tombstone, sadly, has the appearance of another Disneyland or Knotts Berry Farm. Tombstone was a town that was inhabited by the outcasts of Eastern society. Contrary to the legendary practice of facing each other on the main drag at high noon, the conventional manner of settling a score was to shoot someone in the back while they were unawares. Being descended from ancestors who were the principal victims of these glorified and overblown ruffians, your scribe has little use for the romanticized, fictional Hollywood and TV version of Freedomland history.

While it is true that poets and visual artists have come to Bisbee, the presence of the old element has resulted in a healthy leavening where these new elements have been instilled with a pride in maintaining the original flavor of the town, the result being a cultural atmosphere that holds its own with much larger population centers.

The festival itself has been a successful annual event over the years that draws a modest number of the local working-class element. The open presentations were well attended by many of those who would not be expected amongst the 'culture crowd,' especially the musical presentations. One such evening was a concert by a group of country and western singers and musicians followed by an excellent choir from Tuscon who sang IWW, United Farm Worker and other labor songs. On another evening, Charlie King sang more IWW and other labor songs, among them Utah Phillips' "Larimer Street."

There were many terrific poets who adhered to the theme of the festival, including your scribe, who had written a poem commemorating the Bisbee deportees. One of the most inspiring presentations was given by Dave Dellinger, long-standing anti-war activist who, like yours truly, had spent a number of his years during World War Two in a federal penitentiary for refusing to report for military servitude. Among others, both Dellinger and this writer gave creative writing workshops in which we included the importance of building a better human society where power can be taken from the monopolists. I believe we have instilled some optimism as well as inspiration to those of a younger generation, while being assured ourselves that there will be those who will carry on the struggle when we are no longer around.

Waiting eight hours for the return train connection at Benson, one could see the importance of building a society where those who do the work shall be in control.

— C.C. Redcloud

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Teamsters Meltdown

The "reform" Teamsters are continuing their meltdown as we go to press, with reports that Carey's personal book-keeper was given a no-show job with the union, AFL officials were laundering funds for Carey's re-election campaign, three Carey aides turning stool pigeon, and a federal court looking into barring him from running for Teamsters president again.

But amidst this spreading scandal, Carey's supporters seem optimistic. "This is our chance to drive a stake through the heart of the old guard," Teamsters for a Democratic Union co-chair Mike Ruscigno told *Labor Notes*. Apparently they think Teamsters members are so accustomed to scandal-ridden administrations that they will give Carey a pass...

Cooperation

UPIU, UAW and Steelworkers local officers are hitting the rubber chicken circuit, speaking side by side with lawyers from union-busting Jackson, Lewis, Schnitzler & Krupman (the firm Borders hired to fight its workers) on "improving your union/management relationships."

Executive Enterprise's two-day program costs \$1595 a head (plus meals and hotel). But workers are permitted to attend (if they or their bosses pony up the cash), unlike the firm's other seminars, "How to Stay Union-Free in the 21st Century" and "Maintaining Nonunion Status." Only bosses are allowed to attend those programs.

It says in the IWW Preamble that the working class and the employing class have nothing in common. And it's true. But the piecards may well be a different story....

With Friends Like These

At the recent AFL-CIO Convention, chief piecard John Sweeney introduced Vice President Al Gore as one of the best labor organizers in the country. No doubt, he meant it in the same spirit that it's often said a bad boss is the best organizer — though if so I'm sure a lot of AFL members would like to know why tens of millions of dollars of their hard-earned dues are going to keep these boss-lovers in power.

But of course it can be dangerous to speak truth to power. A few days ago, officials at the Boston's Franklin Park Zoo announced that a hitherto healthy gorilla had died suddenly while undergoing a routine physical. Earlier this year, the gorilla was confronted by a cabal of politicians in front of his cage, and responded to the threat by pelting the mayor and other government officials with feces. No doubt many of us would have found the temptation hard to pass up...

United For Cuts in Wages

UFCW Vice President Jack Loveall has agreed to slash health benefits for new hires and retirees in a 4-year contract covering 9,600 Northern California supermarket workers. The deal follows a 3-year pay freeze "won" after a 9-day strike that effectively closed the supermarkets — and scared union officials into signing whatever man-

Letters: General Strike

I have recently joined the Industrial Workers of the World, but with one reservation — the general strike. Wouldn't we be better off helping to set up workers' cooperatives to gradually replace the capitalist system, rather than waiting for the vague and distant general strike?

Simon O'Meara, Isle of Wight

Editor's Note: The IWW has no objection to workers setting up workers' cooperatives where the means exist to do so, so long as they do not undercut wages or working conditions, and indeed many of our members are involved in such projects.

However, such cooperatives cannot hope to replace the capitalist system; rather they must inevitably operate within capital-

ism and face the constant danger of being absorbed by it. Thus, the best-known example of such co-ops, the Mondragon federation, has been driven to open overseas maquiladora plants and to set up huge non-co-op subsidiaries in order to sustain itself within the capitalist system. Such problems are hardly unique to Mondragon, they have arisen every time workers have sought to escape wage slavery by side-stepping it. As long as capitalism remains intact, the bosses will always be able to 'outcompete' worker co-ops by finding desperate workers somewhere in the world to undercut our standards. We can escape this dilemma only by organizing to overturn capitalism and the wage system, and build a society fit for human beings to live in.

In November We Remember

Every November we look back at the struggles that built this organization, and remember the many, many fellow workers who have fallen in the battle for our emancipation. The list is not short — even if one limits it to Wobblies it includes not only the relatively well-known, such as Joe Hill and Frank Little, but scores of lesser-known Wobblies such as James Brew, murdered by deputies while defending himself against the Bisbee Deportation.

Last year, FW Chase's column reviewed

this long, bloody history of boss terror. This year, the IWW is marking the month by issuing a compilation of documents on the 1917-20 anti-

IWW repression which saw thousands of Wobblies railroaded to prison, and tens of thousands blacklisted (see page 10 of this issue for the details)...

Reform?

It's far from clear that the bosses have reformed their bloody ways. Sure, they're less likely to come after us here in Freedomland with noose in hand, and believe me I'm glad of that. But around the world, hundreds of workers are killed every year for standing up for their rights. Tens of thousands lose their jobs, often to be blacklisted for years to come. Enormous numbers are imprisoned...

Not to mention the daily carnage of industrial "accidents," toxic work sites, and rule-by-terror straw bosses.

Capitalism is a vicious, brutal system. It has to be. It's not easy to maintain a system in which a tiny fraction of the population lives off the labor and ingenuity of the vast, dispossessed majority. Unfortunately, it's not all that easy to overturn it either. That takes education and organization — and a determined struggle to dump the bosses off our backs...

Are you with us in this battle? Every piece of union literature you put in the hands of your fellow workers, every conversation you strike up about present conditions and the need to change them, every act of direct action and solidarity is a powerful blow for labor's emancipation.

— JB

Industrial Worker Sustaining Fund

Gary Doebler, West Mifflin PA	\$10
Mark Damron, Cincinnati OH	10
David Tucker & Jill Fugate, Bellingham WA	20
Mark Mulligan, Seattle WA	5
V.T. Lee, Tampa FL	5
James Ladwig, Hoopa CA	30

Charlie Sato Memorial Fund

Mike Long, Honolulu HI	\$500
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Utah Phillips Solidarity Fund

Jeff Strottman, Iowa City IA	\$10
Wm. S. Camwell, Phoenix AZ	20

Bisbee, Arizona – July 17, 1917

by Carlos Cortez

In the summer of 1917 the mines in Arizona were tied up tight;
The Wobs were doing their job,
Demanding that any settlement be nationwide,
Not to leave the miners in Butte or any other place
Holding the bag,
Because an injury to one group of workers
Was an injury to all workers.

The federal government appointed Governor Hunt
Who had been re-elected to conciliate,
But the copper companies refused to accept him
Because he was too damn friendly to the unions
And they wanted to get rid of those pesky Wobblies.

The federal government was paying three times the price of copper
And the IWW told the government it could save money
By taking over the mines and giving the miners their demands,
But the government, true to form,
Did not listen.
Saying instead, the IWW was in the employ of the Kaiser.

Working on a plan laid out for him
By one of the Kaiser's army captains,
Mr. Walter Douglas, head of Phelps-Dodge,
That exploiting behemoth of miners, workers, and many other poor people
In the Southwest, then and for many decades to come,
Made out his strategy to rid Arizona, once and for all,
Of those pesky Wobblies.

Before the dawn on the twelfth of July
A posse of company thugs rounded up strikers and sympathizers,
Clubbing them unmercifully and killing three,
Even breaking into homes until they had over a thousand and a hundred of them.

Over a thousand and a hundred were herded to a ball park,
Put into cattle cars, packed standing room only,
Shipped out into the Desert;
Thirsty and sweltering, thirty-six hours of torture,
And left in the middle of nowhere
To survive as best they could;
A thousand and a hundred striking miners.

Mr. Walter Douglas, may his soul roast in anything but peace,
Is no longer with us,
But his company carries on his vile reputation,
Robbing Indios, Chicanos, and other poor people
Of their last bit of land,
Turning once pristine beauty into a polluted wasteland,
Setting back the clock of human progress;
but the high and mighty can fall precipitously:
The struggle continues;
La Lucha Continúa!
Until Mr. Walter Douglas and those of his ilk
Are *truly* no longer with us.

LA LUCHA CONTINUA!



Charlene "Charlie" Junko Sato 1951 - 1996

The O'ahu IWW General Membership Branch fondly remembers FW Charlie Sato. Charlie was born June 25, 1951, in Lahaina, Maui, and grew up in Wahiawa on O'ahu. Educated at Leilehua High School, UC Berkeley, the University of Hawai'i and UCLA, she taught sociolinguistics and pidgin and creole studies at UH-Manoa for the previous 14 years, and was chair of the Ph.D. program in Second Language Acquisition, dearly loved and respected by her colleagues and by generations of students from Hawai'i and around the world. A tireless fighter for social justice and the rights of working people, she was a supporter of LACASA, the People's Fund, and other projects in Europe, Australia and Japan, and an active member of the O'ahu GMB. She died calmly and peacefully on Sunday, Jan. 28 1996, aged just 44, after a ten-month struggle with ovarian cancer.

A memorial fund has been established with the IWW in Charlie's name, the money to assist women members' participation at the General Assembly. Those wishing to contribute may send donations to the IWW, 103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197-5438.

A few days ago I got email from an AFL organizer taking strong exception to a leaflet by our Puget Sound GMB circulated at a support rally for apple workers, which he thought unfair to the AFL-CIO unions and their officials. I thought I'd share my response (trimmed down a bit, to fit)...

Unions don't walk picket lines. Rank and filers do; and Wobblies continue to do more than our share of that sort of work. We do it because we support the folks on strike, not the business unions which often do little more than collect their dues. When workers from those unions return the favor, we certainly appreciate it. That doesn't mean we owe their unions anything. Most of the time the bureaucrats discourage the rank and file from supporting anything we do. And most of the rank and filers who walk with us on our lines and theirs don't have a much higher opinion of their business unions than we do...

I spent 6 years in UFCW, a year in the UAW and now 18 in the IWW. I belonged to the UFCW for 3 years before anyone pointed out the appointed, not elected, shop steward.

One business agent showed up once in the shop in those three years. A fellow worker had a grievance. The BA went to the boss, came back with the guy's time cards, said "You've been late quite a few times. You'd better watch it or you're liable to be fired." End of grievance procedure. We were part of an amalgamated local, too far away for most of us to make the union meetings. When they wanted us there to ratify a wimpy contract, they threatened to fine us if we didn't show up. So a bunch of us carpooled and went to oppose the contract. About 20 folks were allowed to speak in favor of the contract. The anti-contract mike was cut off after 6 workers spoke....

My dad was a CWA local president for 25 years. I was proud of the job he did with his local. He was just a working stiff. The only compensation he got from the union for his efforts was an annual trip to their convention. He organized shops for them and made the bosses squirm in local negotiations and grievance procedures.

The workers went out on a wildcat one time over health and safety issues. The union bosses told him to get the workers back on the job. He "disappeared" for a while rather than do the bidding of the union bosses against his fellow workers. The union bosses told my mom that if dad didn't order the workers back they would get him fired. He reappeared when the workers decided to go back on their own....

Might as well throw in the UPIU too. Remember the job they did on the workers at Staley in Decatur? Last week we were helping some striking UPIU workers down the street from IWW Headquarters. They had a meeting in our hall to vote on whether to continue their strike because they didn't have a hall of their own. They had been out 3 weeks. The BA showed up three times for about 10 minutes each. They wondered what he was doing with his time since they were the only unit he had to deal with which was on strike.

A friend of mine, president of another small UPIU local, came into the office – we've worked together for about 4 years, walking the line and publicizing the issues in UFCW, AFSCME, UAW, UPIU, Teamster, CWA and many other unions' strikes. When folks around here want support on the line, they call Jobs With Justice. And a big chunk of the people who show up from JWJ are Wobblies. The folks from the UPIU shop down the road were beefing about misrepresentation by their BA. They asked my friend if he had any trouble with the BA. He said "Nope. I never see him."

The BA showed up at the meeting because he wanted the workers to go back in. He presented them with a few limited bad options. When Wobblies, one who has spent three years as a labor lawyer, politely pointed out that there were other options, he just glared at us. When the workers voted to go back in, unconditionally, without a contract because he made that look like their only viable option, he promised to send someone to present information about in-shop strategies. He later asked the workers to find a place to meet. They suggested the IWW hall. He said he wasn't going back where someone would tell him how to do his job. Well, if he was doing it right, not a word would have been said.

"Wouldn't it make more sense," my correspondent asks, "for the IWW to lead by example, rather than trashing the most progressive AFL/CIO in decades?"

The most progressive AFL-CIO in decades! Unfortunately he's probably right, but that isn't saying much. They let Staley go down the drain. They're doing the same thing with the Detroit newspaper workers. All Sweeney knows or cares about is consolidating his power base. He made promises to the Staley workers which weren't kept. The march in Detroit this summer, too little too late and only finally agreed to because of pressure from the rank and file in the AFL, had to be rescheduled because Sweeney had another appointment on the original date which apparently was more important than the plans of 2,000 locked-out workers and tens of thousands of supporters.

The only way the Detroit strike could have been won is by direct action. There were 3,000 strikers and supporters at the plants the first couple of weeks, fighting the cops and the goons to keep the papers from going out. The AFL said to honor the injunction permitting only 10 pickets and the strike was lost right there. When the Wobblies tried in conjunction with militant strikers to get the tens of thousands of unionists in town to go back out to the plants this summer, the AFL did everything in its power to stop us...

I'm not impressed by the AFL's progressive talk.

We don't need to denigrate the AFL. Talk to the workers. They know all about the AFL. They just don't see any options. We're starting to provide some options once again.

We're pretty small. But one of our folks was out drinking with some AFL types the other night after a support meeting for the striking newspaper workers in Detroit. One asked, "So how many Wobblies are there, 20,000?" Nope, just 862 at the moment. It just seems like 20,000 because our members do 20 times as much for the cause of labor as most AFLers. In the past year we've made Borders bosses and UFCW bosses squirm. There were more San Francisco-area Wobs on the picket line recently than ILWU members to turn away a ship carrying scab cargo from Liverpool to Oakland. Considering our size, growing daily (not too many AFL unions can claim that), we're doing just fine thanks.

I'm glad to work with anyone who's serious about helping workers. That often includes rank and filers in AFL unions. Some of our best members are two carders, belonging to an AFL union because it's the bargaining agent where they work, doing their damndest to democratize it and make it act like a union; and belonging to the IWW by choice because they believe in its principles.

But I'll be damned if I'll keep my mouth shut when I see workers getting screwed as badly by their AFL bosses as they are by their capitalist bosses. I'm regularly reminded in JWJ, where a lot of the work we do is support for strikers who aren't getting that support from their own unions, that I shouldn't criticize the unions in question because then they won't support JWJ. Sheit. If they aren't supporting their own workers, who needs 'em?

See you on the picket line.

— Fred Chase, General Secretary/Treasurer

Solidarity with Mersey dockers...

continued from page 1

Local 500 in Vancouver.

The Neptune Jade set sail immediately for Japan.

The executive committee of Zenkoku-Kowan (National Council of Dockworkers' Unions of Japan) discussed the situation, and decided to refuse to handle containers loaded at Thamesport, or any cargo handled by Mersey Dock & Harbour Company, i.e. any cargoes from and to the ports of Liverpool, Thamesport and Sheerness.

Liverpool steward Bobby Morton thanked the rank-and-file longshoremen who refused to cross the picket line and work the scab cargo. "It has been a tremendous morale booster for our dockers who have been on strike for two years now," he said.

Crane occupied

Kent police entered the Port of Sheerness Sept. 29 to evict Liverpool dockers and their supporters who occupied cranes as a vessel was due to arrive. Outside the gate, 70 dockers and several hundred supporters picketed in the face of the massive police presence. TGWU auto transport drivers employed by Axial refused to bring car imports out through the picket line, and left the port in a fleet of transporters empty handed. Drivers from a second firm, Walons, refused to enter the port. Drivers from ECM crossed the picket line.

Sheerness was targeted on the second anniversary of the Liverpool dockers lock-out because the port is 100% owned by Mersey Docks and Harbour Company.

Actions are also being taken in South Africa against fruit exports to Sheerness.

Twenty members of Reclaim the Streets occupied the roof of the Department of Trade and Industry in London the same day in solidarity with the dockers, while 50 others entered the building. With two helicopters circling overhead and a massive police presence on the ground, all traffic was blocked off. The occupation ended with 27 arrests. Reclaim the Streets originally intended to travel to Sheerness but were intercepted by police.

Solidarity from Ford workers

The September shop meeting of the 2.5 engine assembly line in the Ford Engine Plant, Dagenham, East London, passed unanimously a resolution in support of the Liverpool dockers. The 2.5 engine powers the Ford Transit van. Shop meetings normally discuss only Ford problems and mandate the department shop steward on members opinions by a show of hands vote.

The September meeting of the TGWU Ford Central Branch earlier decided to send £3500 to the Dockers Hardship Fund. A shop floor collection in all the Dagenham plants is in the works.

Postal workers solidarity

Royal Mail has announced it will close its Cooperas Hill facility, apparently at least in part in retaliation for workers' refusal to cross picket lines and deliver mail to MD&HC. When postal workers encounter picket lines, they return the mail to the main office, where the company picks it up.

Steve Higginson, a local official with the Communications Workers Union (which represents the postal workers), notes that the CWU is "one of the few [unions] within the TUC who are consistently calling for scrapping of all trade union legislation. Not bits, the lot has got to go." He calls on other workers—telephone, gas, electric and transport workers in particular—to honor the dockers' picket lines. "As more and more people realise just what happens and the incredible amount of solidarity that is being shown internationally, ... I just think it's a magnificent testament to what they've done. So we've got to try and equal that, and put

the two together, and we can go somewhere."

Unhappy Scabs

As international solidarity continues to spread, Mersey Docks' scab operations stand on increasingly shaky ground. Even MD&HC's scab workforce is increasingly disgusted. Several Drakes scabs recently launched a newsletter, *The Dart*, in order "to give the workforce at the Royal Seaforth container terminal some sort of voice. It is born out of frustration at management's (Drake's and MDHC's) attempts to stifle the concerns, opinions and hopes of the workers."

The scabs complain that after two years they are still subjected to 16-hour shifts and short shifts, "on top of the anxiety of not knowing what shift one will be required to work the following day, and no regular shift pattern." They are not encouraged by management's boast that profits are up and the future is bright, particularly if this will mean even more work under the present intolerable conditions.

"Perhaps the MD&HC and Drake Port Services are under the illusion that this 'honeymoon period' will last indefinitely! Perhaps they don't care! Perhaps they look upon a transient workforce as a distinct advantage!" The scabs end with a vague threat of some sort of industrial action.

It is encouraging to see workers around the world taking industrial action in support of our fellow workers in Liverpool, even if the action is somewhat belated. We can only hope that longshoremen and other workers around the world will learn from the effec-

tiveness of the "Neptune Jade" picketing, and take similar action against all cargo passing through MD&HC's scabby ports. An Injury to One Is An Injury to All!

Ballad of the Neptune Jade

Sailed into Oakland on a Sunday morn
Moored at the dockside blowin' her horn
But the Captain's lookin a bit forlorn
There's a picket of the Neptune Jade

The company say we gotta cross the line
Took us to the courtroom 4 more times
Singing "time is money and the money's all mine
So get them boxes movin'"

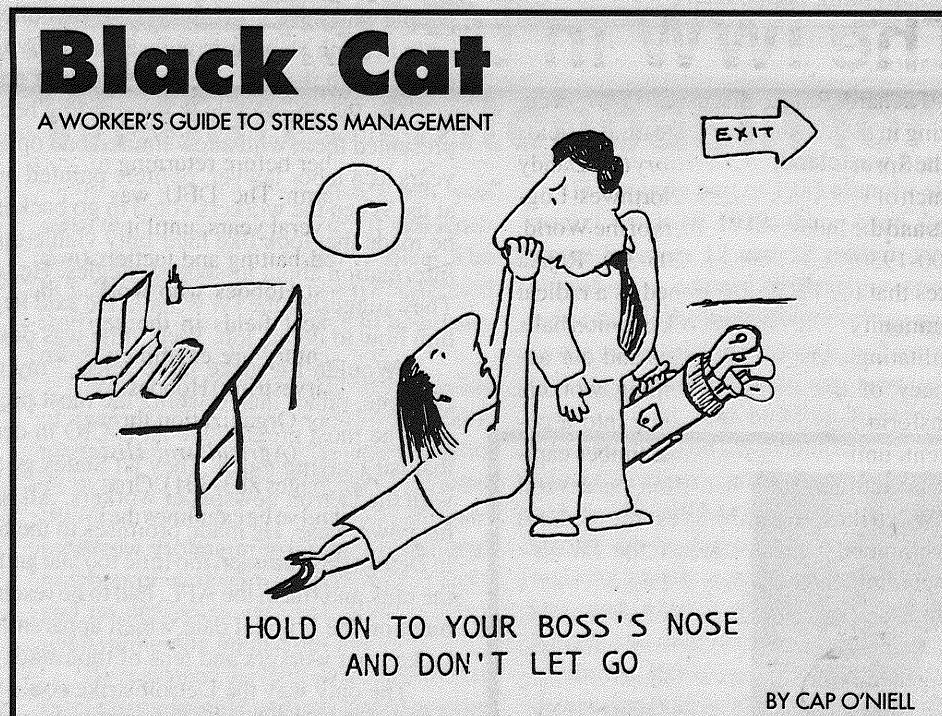
Midnight Tuesday she was in a spin
Sailed around the Bay tried to come back again
But the picket was holding and we wouldn't go in
We're a longshore union

The Neptune Jade's had a change of name
She's the Flying Dutchman once again
Hapag Lloyd must be insane
To call in Liverpool

Headed up to Canada lookin for a berth
Thamesport's screaming for all that they are worth
On Saturday the picket brought them down to earth
Vancouver's in the union

So sail around the world with your hot cargo
Order us to scab and we'll say no
Dockers of the world are set to blow
We're all from Liverpool

— anon.



Bosses love scabs

Very few BART workers crossed the picket lines in last month's short San Francisco Bay Area rapid transit strike. Upon returning to work, the first thing posted to the union bulletin board was a list of scabs.

Management demanded it be removed on the grounds that it was "inappropriate" and "not pertinent to SEIU" (one of three BART unions that struck). The head of BART labor relations accused the union of having no purpose "other to (sic) inflame members..."

SEIU Local 790 Chief Steward Steve Gilbert responded: "It is hard for me to believe that you wrote your letter with a straight face. Are you seriously contending that a list of SCABS, who crossed our picket lines with the intent to weaken our efforts to secure a better contract for all and undercut our Union, is somehow not pertinent and appropriate information for our members?" The union's *Oaktown News* adds that publicizing the names of scabs has been found to be protected free speech by the U.S. Supreme Court (1974).

Shortly after issuing the management memo, a manager sneaked into the Oakland Shop, broke into the union bulletin board (which is secured with locks), and removed the lists. Lists rapidly appeared throughout the workplace. The next day another man-

Lafayette Park Hotel sues union

The San Francisco Bay area Lafayette Park hotel filed a Racketeer Influence and Corrupt Organizations Act lawsuit Sept. 10 against Hotel Employees, Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union, Local 2850.

Workers have been fighting for a union contract for two years. The hotel lists every conceivable picket line incident as "extortionate" acts and claims every part of union boycott publicity as mail and wire fraud.

The complaint also charges the Union's Travel Advisory WebSite constitutes wire fraud and that leafletting at wedding fairs and client mailers constitute racketeering activity. The union is responding by stepping up picketing.

Expensive union-busting in Detroit

The Detroit Sunday Journal reports that Knight-Ridder and Gannett continue racking up huge losses in Detroit. Although Knight-Ridder had projected a return to profitability last summer, internal corporate documents show the paper lost more than \$320,000 in July alone.

An Audit Bureau of Circulations report released in mid-August shows The Detroit Free Press' home delivery hits only 12% of homes in an area that advertisers covet, the six-county Retail Trading Zone. The Detroit News' home delivery manages a meager 7.8% in the same RTZ.

The two papers now owe more than \$50 million in back pay to locked-out workers, and the figure continues to climb. However, the courts have thus far refused to order the papers to rehire union workers, and only a handful have been returned to their jobs.

Sprint slow to pay up

Eighty-one members of the U.S. House of Representatives have called upon Sprint Corp. to pay more than \$12 million in back salaries and to rehire 177 wrongfully terminated employees, as ordered by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

Sprint was found guilty in 1996 by the NLRB of more than 50 labor law violations, including intimidation, coercion and illegal threats of a shutdown, prior to closing its La Conexion Familiar Spanish-language telemarketing facility in San Francisco July 14, 1994. The workers were scheduled to vote the following week to join the Communications Workers of America.

Sprint is the long-distance carrier for the "socially responsible" Working Assets telephone plan.

ager broke into union bulletin boards and removed the lists. When confronted, both managers said they were acting on orders from upper management.

When the guerrilla war of the lists started to escalate, management finally conceded. It paid for repair of the union bulletin boards. The lists remain posted.

IN NOVEMBER I REMEMBER...

MY UNCLE
ANTTI SAIKKONEN

BORN IN FINLAND, 1891 - DIED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1917

ITINERANT LOGGER & MINER
& MEMBER OF
INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

- HARRY SIITONEN, EAST BAY GMB

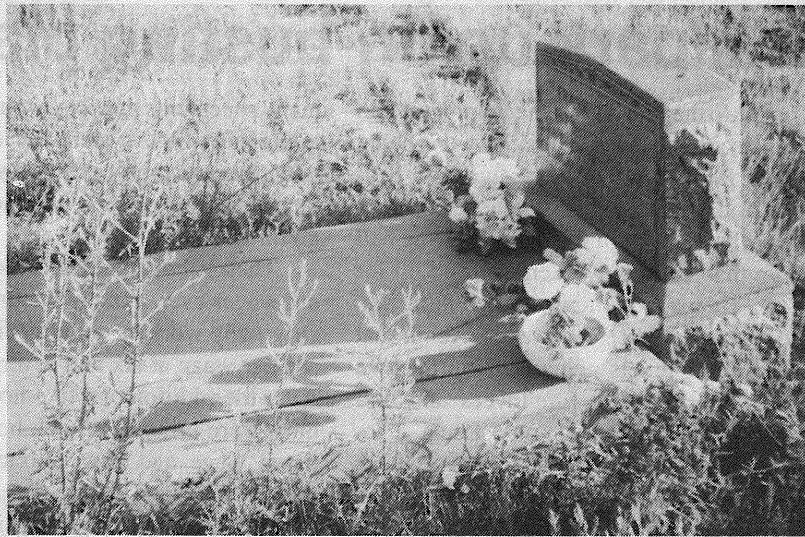
Butte, Montana: Historic Finntown

Miner's Song

So black is, so black, the eternal night
and all of the clocks strike twelve.
Only our comrades sit nodding around,
sweat bead roll down from their brows.

So black is, so black is, Manala's heart,
where I earn my daily bread.
Capital has bought me as its lowly slave,
bought both of my arms and my blood.

— Santeri Mäkelä, 1909
(translation by Harry Siitonen)



Fresh flowers are always found on Frank Little's grave.

After enjoying the 1997 FinnFest in Minot, North Dakota, I visited the state of Montana for the first time in 48 years. One mission was to see Butte, at one time a thriving copper mining town with a turbulent labor history and a large Finnish immigrant population.

I felt at home in Butte, still a solid blue collar working-class city which has seen better days. There are numerous descendants of the old Finns around, but the life of the workers' halls, boarding houses and churches are long gone.

East Broadway in Uptown was in the heart of the old Finntown, replete with bars, boarding houses and saunas. Alas, the only Finnish institution of any kind left today is the Helsinki Bar, which is the only building left amidst the rubble of a large city block. The block was razed years back by the Anaconda Berkeley Pit, which then decided not to utilize the space for a mining operation and pulled out.

Naturally I had to stop in the Helsinki Bar and heist a cool one, even if only a bottle of O'Doul's near-beer, as alcohol is not an option for me. A young man named Perälä owns the place.

Perälä says the only organized Finnish event left in Butte is the annual St. Urho's Day blast. Two to three hundred revelers drop by that day to imbibe the libations provided therein, shoot the bull, and listen to Scandinavian music on the jukebox. There is even a character costumed as St. Urho who chants the ritual "heinäsirkka, heinä-sirkka, mene hiiteen" (grasshopper, grasshopper, go to Hiisi). This year's St. Urho didn't know Finnish, so he was taught to say this magic incantation by rote.

The day after St. Urho's Day, of course, is St. Patrick's Day. So I suspect some of the Irish bacchanalians start celebrating with their Finish pals on St. Urho's Day as a warm-up to St. Paddy's Day, then they and their Finnish cohorts continue their festivities in Butte's Irish pubs. Let's chase the grasshoppers out of Finland first, and then go after the snakes in Ireland!

Butte was an early stronghold of the IWW, and many of the Finnish miners and their families were Wobblies. The center of their pre-World War I community was the Finnish Workers Club hall. Rosa (Rocy) Lemberg was director of its Drama Club from 1916 to 1919. Lemberg was born in 1875 in Southwest Africa (now Namibia) to an Arabic and black Bantu mother, and the white English vice-governor. Her father sent her to live in Finland, where she had a hard life, suffering abuse and hardship from the foster family which raised her, and felt the sting of racism. But she learned to speak Finnish fluently, and studied classical music in Sortavala. She then came as an immigrant to New York, where she became known in the Socialist hall for her gifts as an actor, singer and pianist.

Rosa Lemberg became drama club director of the Finnish Workers Hall in Butte in 1916, and staged many plays there. In 1917, during the World War I hysteria against radicalism, the hall was raided by federal and local agents, and targeted as a center for

"insurrectionary" unionism and anti-war activity. Fourteen men were arrested, and although the courts cleared Lemberg, the hall was closed for a time and she lost her job. She worked as a domestic and later moved to Chicago.

Since so many of the Finnish miners were strong union militants who fought for humane working conditions and dignity in the brutal and dangerous work in the mines, they were often subject to corporate and legal persecution. In 1912, several hundred Finnish miners were fired and blacklisted for union activity and the notorious company rustling cards were initiated, through which workers were pre-screened for jobs in the mines.

On June 8, 1917, a gas explosion caused a fire to break out in the Speculator Mine which killed 164 miners, smothered or burned to death. Their escape had been blocked by solid concrete bulkheads with no opening. The law had required iron man-

hole covers to be installed, but the company ignored it to save money. This triggered a strike of 14,000 miners to demand adequate mine safety, better wages, and abolition of the rustling card system. Martial law was declared. The IWW sent in General Executive Board member Frank Little to assist the strikers. Despite sustaining a recent leg fracture, Little addressed a miners rally at the Butte baseball park on July 31. Later he went to bed at a boarding house next to the Finnish hall. At 3 a.m. on August 1, a gang of gunmen broke into his room, grabbed him, tied him to the bumper of a car and dragged him to a railroad trestle on the edge of town there they lynched him.

Little's funeral was the largest ever seen in Montana. Thousands of miners and their families marched five miles to the cemetery in protest and to honor their martyr. Reino Erkkilä, a retired dockworker in San Francisco, recalls the funeral. He had lived part of his childhood in Butte and vividly re-

members walking in the procession with his parents, sister and brother. His father, Herman Erkkilä, was a miner then, and a life-long supporter of the daily Finnish-language IWW newspaper, *Industrialisti*.

A local Wobbly delegate took me to the cemetery to see Frank Little's grave. I was moved by the experience as much as I had been during the 1980s when I saw the monument for the Haymarket labor martyrs of the 1880s at Waldheim Cemetery in Chicago. IWW singer Mark Ross pays a continuing tribute to the memory of Frank Little by keeping fresh flowers on his grave, 80 years after Little's murder.

FW Dennis George also took me to a miners' monument on the top of a mountain north of town overlooking the now-quiet Anaconda Berkeley pit. There were numerous plaques on a stone wall dedicated to miners who had died in the various mine fires when Butte was a boomtown.

Butte's landscape is stark, bleak and scarred in many ways, but there is a certain grandeur with it surrounding mountains in Montana's Big Sky Country. The old buildings, many restored, speak of its history of nearly a century ago. And its people are a rugged, independent lot. It's no wonder singer/musician Mark Ross is so fond of his hometown. In his album, "Look For Me in Butte," Ross sings his title song, co-written with Utah Phillips:

"Look for me in Butte, where the mountains kiss the stars

I'll be drinking with the miners at the old Helsinki Bar.

Bessie put your bonnet on, let's go out for a toot,

When there's nothing worth looking for, look for me in Butte.

— Harry Siitonen

The IWW in the History Books

Richard Rajala discusses IWW organizing in the Washington state timber fields in the Spring 1996 *Labor History* ("A Dandy Bunch of Wobblies: Pacific Northwest Loggers and the Industrial Workers of the World, 1900-1930," 37/2, pages 205-34). Rajala notes that the IWW functioned as a radical community, with our network of union halls facilitating effective struggles and our advocacy of direct action helping workers transform individual resistance into a coherent, unified assault against timber capital. In addition to information on several IWW strikes, he discusses the federal government's attack against the IWW — concluding that the Loyal Legion was a failure, and attributing our decline in timber to the unsuccessful 1923 general strike and the general decline of the industry, which gave workers less bargaining power.

Phil Mellinger advances a more dubious argument in his "How the IWW Lost Its Western Heartland" (*Western Historical Quarterly* 27 (Autumn 1996), pages 303-24). Seeing the IWW's roots in the Western Federation of Miners, he concludes that the WFM's withdrawal from the IWW was a crippling blow. Up until 1916-17, he argues, IWW efforts to re-establish a base in the non-coastal West were "truly disastrous." He argues — primarily based upon a couple of WFM-IWW locals that left the IWW with the WFM — that the IWW's stance towards immigrant workers was troubled, and even hostile. IWW efforts in the region were hampered, Mellinger argues, by a failure to dispatch sufficient organizers and funds. As a result, the union's resurgence in 1916-17 lacked a sufficient local base, making it difficult to sustain organizing efforts.

Thomas Kriger's "Syndicalism and Spilled Milk" (*Labor History* 38 [Spring 1997], pages 266-86) looks at New York's Dairy Farmers Union, which used direct action tactics in the late 1930s to fight the dairies' exploitation of dairy farmers. DFU founder Archie Wright was a former Wob-

bly, active particularly in Marine Transport Workers from 1921-26, though he also worked in timber before returning to work his father's farm. The DFU was highly effective for several years, until it was broken apart by red-baiting and factionalism.

The Harvest Hoboes who worked the midwestern wheat fields in the early decades of the century are examined in Ted Grossardt's "Harvest(ing) Hoboes: The Production of Labor Organization through the Wheat Harvest" (*Agricultural History* 70 [Spring 1996], pages 283-301). Grossardt is a geographer, and so he examines the IWW's attempts to organize migratory workers in spatial terms, contrasting governmental and Wobbly efforts to "rationalize" the industry in pursuit of quite incompatible objectives. Since the IWW lacked property, it organized around box cars, hobo jungles, and the wheat belt itself. The IWW organized a community life in the jungles, helping keep them sanitary and protecting against the criminals who lived off the migratory workers, and also helped workers counter efforts to drive down wages by flooding local labor markets. In order to break the union, police broke up the hobo jungles and arrested any worker who refused to work at whatever wages farmers offered.

Steve Kellerman's review of Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz's *Red Dirt: Growing Up Okie* (Verso, 1997) ran in the October IW. *Red Dirt* is a remarkable memoir of Dunbar's childhood in an IWW family, and its efforts to break out of the grinding poverty in which they lived.

The November 1996 issue of the Italian journal *di Base* contains an article by editor Cosimo Scarinzi: "Gli IWW, l'Unionismo industriale, il Sindacalismo d'Azione Diretta negli USA." And *Dishwasher* zine #14 has an article about the IWW in the restaurant industry in the early 1900s.

Peter Cole's dissertation on the Philadelphia waterfront, containing a great deal of information on the IWW's Marine Trans-

port Workers, is now available from University Microfilm International. "Shaping Up and Shipping Out: The Philadelphia Waterfront during and after the IWW Years, 1913-1940."

Among recent articles on the IWW which we haven't seen are: Robert Keller's "Joe Hill Ain't Never Died": Wallace Stegner's Act of Literary Imagination," *Montana* 46 (Autumn 1996), pages 30-39. Marilyn Rhinehart's "Spies in the Piney Woods: John Henry Kirby's Agents Provocateurs and the Brotherhood of Timber Workers in East Texas, 1910-1912," *Locus* 8 (Spring 1996), pages 169-82. We are looking to review J. Anthony Lukas' just-published *Big Trouble* (Simon & Schuster), about the Haywood-Pettibone-Moyer case, shortly.

The Tacoma public library's web page includes an "Unsettling Events" index, listing unforeseen disasters and/or acts of inhumanity like the Green River Killings, earthquakes, fires, strikes, and the IWW. Unsettling bunch that we are, we earned not only a general listing, but also yearly entries for most of the 19-teens. There is also a long piece on the Centralia Massacre. The URL for this hodgepodge is: <http://www.tpl.lib.wa.us/nwr/unsetng.htm>

Volume 6 of the Samuel Gompers Papers, *The American Federation of Labor and the Rise of Progressivism*, published by University of Illinois Press, covers the years 1902-06. Highlights include the founding of the IWW (and Luke Grant's reports of the first convention). A few years ago, U of I also published David Brundage's *The Making of Western Labor Radicalism: Denver & Organized Workers, 1879-1905*, which finds the roots of the IWW in the Knights of Labor and similar organizations. And they have published a new edition of William Preston's *Aliens and Dissenters*, which includes much information on the World War I-era repression against the IWW.

compiled by Jon Bekken

Canada: Days of Action continue

35,000 workers marched through the streets of North Bay, Ontario, Sept. 27. North Bay is a city of 56,000 and gateway to Ontario's Near North mining region. Chanting workers carrying union banners and picket signs flowed into Thompson Park. Workers were demonstrating against cuts in public sector jobs and social spending by the Conservative government. The North Bay protest was another in the series of Days of Action which have taken place across Ontario, including a general strike which shut down Toronto last October.

Unionised teachers made up a leading component of the demonstrators. 180 buses brought in supporters from across Ontario. A province-wide illegal teachers' strike against lay-offs is planned at press time.

Ontario labour recently forced the government to back down on provisions of Bill 136 which would have withdrawn the right to strike from many public sector workers.

In Quebec City, at least 8,000 municipal workers demonstrated against the Parti Québécois government. Quebec has downshifted \$500 million in its costs to local governments. Union leaders believe Premier Lucien Bouchard will legislate a 6 percent wage clawback to cut municipal payrolls. Eight unions representing 82,000 workers are threatening strike actions if a clawback law is passed.

Postal workers wildcat

Over 600 postal workers in Halifax, Nova Scotia, spontaneously went on strike Oct. 2 in solidarity with a worker who was suspended after telling management the bosses' high pay was "shameful" when they were refusing any concessions to workers.

The strike started in the sorting station where the worker was suspended. Letter carriers then refused to handle mail from the sort area. Unionized workers at area depots and retail counters also walked off work. Earlier this year, the postal union disclosed a memo from a junk-mail distributor to the state (which runs the public postal corporation) outlining a plan to force a strike through bad-faith negotiating and then legislate the workers off the picket lines. The state denied any wrongdoing even though bad-faith bargaining is illegal in Canada.

In September, postal workers across the country refused their uniforms as a sign of solidarity. Some workers also occupied the offices of a junk-mail corporation for its support of the state bosses.

Marriott workers on strike

Members of CAW Local 4050 have been on strike against Marriott at the Michener Centre in Red Deer, Alberta, since July 27. Many workers have been laid-off since Marriott took over the food service operation, food portions have shrunk, and food quality has declined dramatically. Wages were cut by \$3.50 an hour, benefits are a thing of the past, and workers' hours have been cut.

Ballpark union-busting plagues S.F. Bay Area

Up to the mid-1980s the workers at San Francisco Bay Area ballparks were being paid a fairly good, one-tier wage with benefits and hours to match. Whenever work was offered through the union's hiring hall more than enough workers showed up for work. Then a fair amount of jobs came into the hiring halls at good wages. About that time the contracts negotiated by the two Hotel & Restaurant Employees and bartenders international unions, Local 2 located in San Francisco, and Local 2850 in Oakland started to go sour.

The first thing I noticed was that we suddenly had a two-tiered wage system, where two workers doing the same job working side-by-side were paid different wages. The union officials had previously vowed in

many statements that they would not accept a two tier wage system. Of course these labor fakers weren't satisfied with this major concession to the bosses, they decided to go further.

These labor frauds decided to decrease our wages even more by cutting our hours. Originally workers were receiving the upper tier wage at six and seven hour shifts. After the addition of a five-hour shift, new hires were brought in with both the lower tiered wage and new, shorter shift. The shorter hours and lower wage, while causing difficulty for the new hires in supporting themselves and their families, were still not the end of the story.

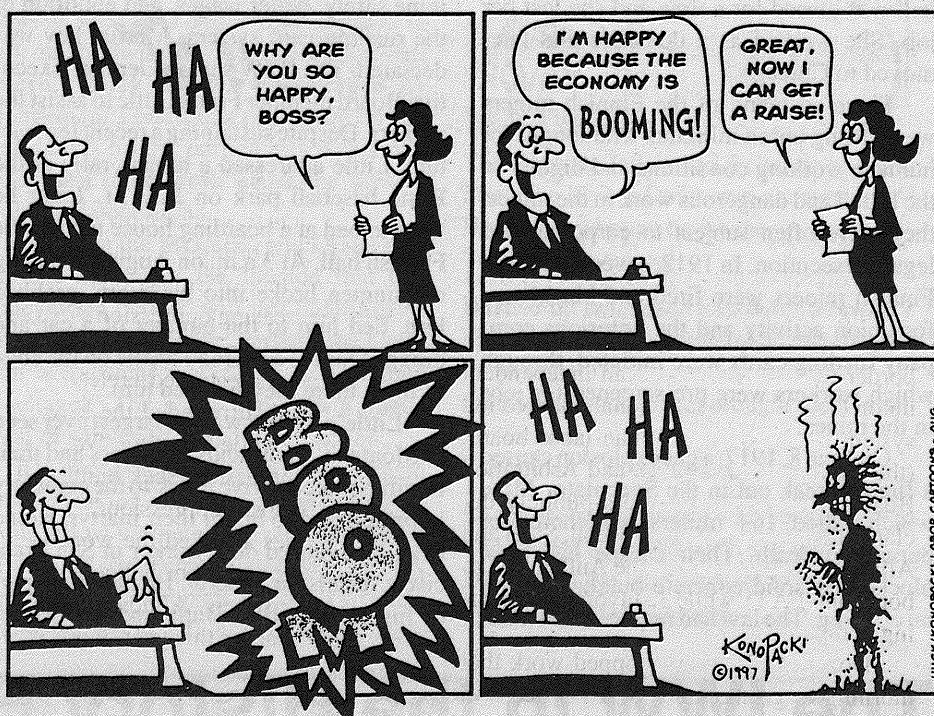
Aided and abetted by local "progressive" politicians, union officials cleared the

way for "non-profit" groups as well as non-union subcontractors. While each type of vendor is different in the way they do business both take away potential union jobs by using volunteer and non-union labor, respectively.

Some of the "non-profit" groups are Oakland's Fremont High School, Oakland Women's Basketball Court Number Four, Boy Scouts of America and different church groups. These organizations are working in concession stands previously staffed with Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees union members. As we will recall, the Boy Scouts of America and some of these churches are more concerned with discrimination and hate mongering. Can anyone seriously believe that these groups are concerned with the well being of the surrounding community?

Among the subcontractors are Round Table Pizza and Juma Ventures, a subsidiary of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream. Local vendors (many minority) were also brought in as subcontractors with the help of Assemblyman Don Perata and City Councilman Igancio de la Fuente, ironically a former labor organizer with SEIU.

It seems that the liberal politicians are benefiting from an illusory do-good image, by supporting non-profits and local minority-owned businesses. In truth, both parks border economically depressed communities where good paying jobs are sorely needed. According to the H.E.R.E. union officials, this has been occurring at ballparks throughout the country. If fellow workers have any information on ballparks please write to: X345545 at the Berkeley Office IU 640, 2022 Blake Street, Berkeley, CA 94704 phone (510) 845-0540.



Welfare: Catchbasin for the poor

If you give a hungry man a fish, you solve the immediate problem. If you teach him to fish, you solve a bigger problem. The U.S. Welfare system has always addressed the first problem, and there will be no significant changes. Why not?

Welfare keeps the long term jobless out of sight and quiet, it removes them from the mainstream of our society, often placing them in ghettos or public housing projects. Building whole neighborhoods of despairing boredom, the welfare system packs large numbers of workers with no money, no jobs and no prospects, into one place — effectively removing them from our view.

By removing the long term unemployed from our close surroundings and depositing them in catch basins of the poor, it becomes easy for the media and the politicians to vilify them, to make them not only responsible for their joblessness, but also responsible for a myriad of associated social ills. Citing the tax dollars that it takes to support this system, it is easy for the politicians to drive a wedge between the average working person and those "bums on welfare."

In the early part of 1933 after the stock market crash of 1929, there were somewhere between 12 and 17 million unemployed in this country. With no government aid available the jobless were selling apples on the street, picking through garbage cans looking for something to eat, begging for work or food, and building shantytowns (Hoovervilles) on town dumps. This put the jobless in close contact with the working people who still had jobs. It was that visibility, the day-to-day contact that gave all the working people a good look at being jobless, and what it meant to be homeless, hungry and unable to find work.

In the 1930s just as in every previous depression (1873, '84, '93, 1907, '21) there was massive and militant agitation for social and economic reform. Driven in part by the awareness of people who were still working that they were only a pay check or two from being out on the street themselves. F.D.R. instituted the New Deal, a program of publicly funded works projects and a financial relief system for the poor. By providing food and shelter to the destitute, the welfare system effectively silenced any outcry for changes in the economic system.

In these days of skyrocketing corporate profits, the welfare system has kept people from asking why there are so many people out of work. The media tell us that those who are out of work are just shiftless loafers, thereby quelling any agitation for jobs or questioning of the corporate model of the economy.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 35,968,000 people receive some form of means-tested assistance (AFDC, General Assistance, SSI, Food Stamp, Medicaid and housing assistance), 24.3% (just under 9 million) of these people are unemployed. To put each of these 9 million people to work and pay them \$5.15 per hour (mini-

mum wage) would cost an employer about \$7.73 per hour. (The additional \$2.58 per hour is the employer's cost of unemployment insurance, workman's compensation, and Social Security.) \$7.73 per hour times 40 hour a week times 52 weeks is \$16,068 cost to the employer per year. Take that \$16,068 times 9 million welfare recipients and the cost to the employers would equal just a little over \$144.6 billion.

The corporate interests in this country certainly don't want to absorb these 9 million people into the ranks of their employees. That would cost too much money, cut into the margin of profit, and reduce stockholder dividends. It is much better for profitability if the welfare recipient were supported by the government, rather than providing him or her with a paying job.

The media have painted a picture of welfare queens whose families have been on welfare for five generations. Sure, there are a few of these bums out there, but the average stay on welfare is under three years. The Plutocrats have used the media, their lobbyists, and their bought-and-paid-for politicians to divide the workers of this country into two groups: workers and loafers. Instead of workers, employed and unemployed, showing a solid front — wanting to know why there aren't jobs when the corporations are making record profits — the employed workers dance to the boss's tune; sniping at the jobless, despising the homeless, and hating the mythical welfare queens.

To the corporate interests the welfare system is too convenient and profitable to lose. The Plutocrats have used it to cripple working class awareness, protecting their own profits and position by stalling the engine of social and economic change. That is why there will be no significant change in the welfare system.

— Tom Johnson X346299



In November We Remember

Sam Dolgoff

1902 - 1990

Veteran IWW Organizer
Editor of *Bakunin On Anarchy* and
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Workers' Self-Management in the
Spanish Revolution (1936-1939)
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Police storm union meeting, Indonesia

Anti-riot police stormed a congress of the unrecognised Sejahtera Indonesia (SBSI) union Sept. 19 and broke up the gathering. The security forces arrived several hours after the meeting had started in the union's headquarters in Jakarta and detained at least nine members of the union, two Dutch journalists and two Australian unionists.

They were released the next day after an international campaign and pressure exerted on the spot by foreign unionists taking part in the Congress. The Australian unionists were released after spending a night at the police station, despite an attempt by Australian diplomats to prevent their release.

Since its creation in 1992, the workers for prosperity trade union (SBSI) has been under attack by the Indonesian regime. With a membership in the hundreds of thousands, the SBSI has fought for better working conditions and freedom of association. Its members are regularly harassed and arrested by the police. Several independent unionists have even been assassinated.

The congress was being held in the absence of the union's president, Muchtar Pakpahan, who is serving a four-year jail term for allegedly inciting a workers' riot in April 1994 in North Sumatra. He is also being tried on subversion charges linked to mass riots in July 1996.

"Today, the second congress of SBSI is opening, after a long journey strewn with pebbles," the jailed leader said in an opening address which was read out on his behalf by an emotional Sunarti, the secretary-general of the union.

More than 100 people, including representatives from international trade unions and diplomats, crowded a back room at the union's headquarters after police denied it a permit to hold the congress at a hotel.

Two days after releasing the unionists, Indonesian authorities arrested eight union activists who were taking part in a demonstration outside the national parliament of more than 1,000 striking workers from two shoe exporting factories.

The striking workers from the PT Sindoll and PT Multi Beta Pertiwi factories are demanding higher pay and better working conditions, particularly in terms of food and transport, as well as free medical care. The firms concerned make shoes for Reebok international and Starmont.

Further proof of the often deplorable conditions faced by Indonesian workers in some export industries came when Nike announced its decision to break off relations with four sub-contractors which have refused to respect the minimum pay and working conditions. It is the first time that Nike has ended relations with a sub-contractor which does not respect its code of conduct.

New Braceros plan for U.S. farmers?

While the U.S. government continues an unprecedented crackdown against undocumented workers, and is even denying immigrant workers here legally a wide range of social services and benefits, the federal government has decided to temporarily open the border to thousands of undocumented Mexican migrant workers.

The program was begun in response to complaints from California growers that they are having difficulty getting farm workers at the low wages they prefer to pay. They are threatening to leave fruits and vegetables to rot in the fields if legislation is not passed to guarantee a supply of short-term, low-wage workers from south of the border.

Even as growers demand the importation of tens of thousands of farm workers, California's 18 top agricultural counties have double-digit unemployment.



Maquiladora workers go union

Workers of the Tijuana factory of Han Young de Mexico became the first maquiladora workers on the U.S./Mexico border to vote in favor of an independent union Oct. 6. In the traditional open voting system used by the Mexican labor board, (the National Conciliation and Arbitration Board - JNCA), 55 workers publicly declared their support for the Metal, Steel and Allied Workers Union of the Authentic Labor Front (FAT), while 32 favored the existing company union.

Dozens of workers stopped work that morning to go the labor board office in a group, fearing the company would try to block them from voting. When the line of workers had been exhausted, 52 had voted for the FAT, and only 7 for the company union.

But a heated confrontation erupted as a new group presented themselves to vote. To the outrage of Han Young workers, they recognized their supervisors, and saw others they had never seen in the plant before.

The labor board representatives reopened the election procedure. Many had no papers identifying themselves as Han Young employees. Some didn't remember the name of the company where they supposedly worked, until reminded by others. One admitted after voting that he was a foreman, and therefore ineligible to vote under Mexican law.

As this group voted, angry Han Young workers outside chanted "Fraud, Fraud." In the end, however, the votes of the second group proved insufficient to defeat the FAT. However, the JNCA is conducting hearings on whether to certify the vote, and there are some indications that it may use the company's attempt at fraud to overturn the workers' victory.

The governor has already forced the resignation of the JNCA chief in Tijuana, Antonio Ortiz, reportedly for allowing the election to take place at all.

Han Young is a feeder factory for the huge Hyundai Corp. manufacturing complex, one of largest in Tijuana's vast industrial network. It builds chassis for truck trailers and huge metal shipping containers, which are then finished in the main Hyundai plant.

The October 6 election capped a long organizing effort by workers dissatisfied with poor working conditions and low wages. "The company doesn't give us gloves, jackets, or other safety equipment, and there's no ventilation" explained Armando Hernandez Roman, a welder with three years in the plant. "I make 54 pesos a day (US \$5.50), and there are no raises to compensate for the rising inflation." Prices have

Prison workers riot

Thousands of working prisoners at the Vaan Reform-Through-Labour mine in the Sichuan province of China rioted July 3 and 4 against increasing oppression throughout the year.

The workers destroyed an electric power substation and surrounded the bosses' office building while chanting "We want to live, resist oppression, seek humane treatment, and oppose suppression."

The bosses attacked the workers with machine guns and from helicopters, murdering 310 prisoners. Almost 200 soldiers were killed. Earlier this year, workers protested for the eight-hour day and higher pay, against forced overtime and bribe-costs for receiving visitors. At one point almost 1,000 workers took sick leave to protest the sudden cancellation of Spring Festival celebrations. Most of the prisoners are between 20 and 30 years old; all of them are serving more than 10 years in prison.

more than doubled for basic groceries in Mexico in the last three years.

Workers went on strike for two days last June, calling for immediate improvements and demanding that managers recognize and bargain with their own elected representatives, rather than with CROC. Faced with a costly halt in production, managers acceded to the demands. But the company soon fired eight strike leaders, and brought in anti-union consultants. Union supporters were offered pay hikes if they abandoned the union effort, and told the plant would close if workers chose the FAT.

Worker faces death threats

Salvador Bravo returned from a meeting with Canadian workers who share the same bosses at the Custom Trim company in September to death threats. His wife and child have left their hometown of Valle Hermos and gone underground.

You can fax protests to the Mayor (011-52-88 42-36-19), Governor (011-52-13 12-34-92), and bosses 519 576-0204.

Chinese workers act up against bosses' tyranny

Garment workers in the Sichuan Province of China took over Nanchong City in March to protest bosses' refusal to pay them wages. After a 30-hour paralysis of the city, including an occupation of their factory, the workers won their back wages.

Months later, the protests grew to include hundreds of thousands of workers united in anger over repeated factory bankruptcies and related wage losses. On July 10, armed police broke up one demonstration by beating 100 worker and imprisoning 80. Soon after, workers won a state buyout of their factory after organizing a 20-hour roadblock. Workers also won back their bicycles which were confiscated by the state in August after mass street protests.

Farmworkers also took action in numerous cities. In total, 500,000 workers protested against "exploiting and fleecing the peasants." Workers in at least three provinces seized state buildings and attacked supply and marketing factories.

The farmworkers are especially active in the very areas where early support for the Chinese revolution was based, including Mao Zedong's home-province of Hunan. The state attacks each protest while recognizing that governance and production have broken-down in places. In some local areas "patriarchal clans" have replaced the government in decision-making.

Clinton aide in AFL credit card deal

The *Wall Street Journal* reports that President Clinton's chief fund-raiser and a political consultant who recently pleaded guilty to fraud in connection with money laundering for Teamster President Ron Carey's re-election bid, helped broker a lucrative arrangement for the AFL-CIO last spring that brought the labor federation tens of millions of dollars.

The two, helped engineer an "affinity" credit-card deal between the AFL-CIO and Chicago-based Household International Inc., serving as paid consultants to a Boston firm working for Household.

Under the credit-card arrangement, the AFL received a \$50 million signing bonus after agreeing in the spring of 1996 to let Household manage its Union Privilege program, which is expected to total \$3.4 billion in overall revenue. Members of the AFL-CIO's affiliated unions are offered insurance, telephone and other services - allegedly at special, discounted rates, though the credit card program in particular has come under fire for its hidden costs - through the Union Privilege program.

The AFL expects to receive some \$375 million in royalties over the next five years - a big boost for a organization with a \$60 million annual budget. The *Journal* suggests the money is being funnelled to the Democrats; the AFL insists it is going toward organizing.

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Job Corps...

continued from page 1

Action. In their magazine, M.T.C. describes a deal made with the Red Lion Hotel Chain where they "indenture" student employees to work at the hotel after 500 hours of free labor where they are "trained" to do janitorial duties.

"Job training" by M.T.C. has become a thinly veiled disguise for funneling working class young people into low-paying jobs that they could have got without any training at all. M.T.C.'s interest is clearly more in the \$26,000-a-head figure that the Department of Labor pays out for the training of the student employees on the Center, than it is with insuring that people who go through the program come out with usable job skills and the opportunity for a better life. Organizing to stop the cycle of poverty encouraged by this kind of irresponsible management of a publicly-funded program continues and we're now starting to enlist the help of social service agencies that recruit young people into Job Corps centers.

State gangs up on youth

We have, over the last decade, witnessed an increasing trend in North America to lock up more of our youth in adult and more oppressive prisons. This includes very young teenagers. Bootcamps complete with razor wire fences and crass militaristic atmospheres are the contexts for childhood development which the capitalist state seems to intend for working class youth.

Some states have even passed legislation allowing for mere children and teens to be tried on capital cases and receive the death penalty. This is the shining example of progress the United States of America is holding up to the world.

The State of Alabama is now moving to take the life of a 13-year-old, mentally retarded boy named Michael Shawn Barnes. The State of Alabama seeks to place this child in their electric chair, named 'Yellow Mama,' and pump lethal currents of electricity through his body.

Michael Shawn Barnes was wrongfully convicted of a murder for which the older gang members in his crime-ridden neighborhood are responsible. He is being held on Alabama's death row in conditions of harassment and is fed a poor diet. He needs our support!

Please write Alabama Governor Fob James, Jr., State Capitol N-104, 600 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36130

Letters should emphasize Michael's extreme youth, his mental retardation, and express your disgust and indignation at the ruthlessness of state-sponsored killing of children. Insist upon compassion and mercy for this child instead of death.

— F.W. Glover, X344248

Meanwhile, the regional National Labor Relations Board office is considering IWW arguments that Job Corps student employees are entitled to unionize without intimidation and firings. IWW organizers filed Unfair-Labor Practice Charges against M.T.C. back in July, when Marra and Matt Wilson, another IWW member, were suspended for union activity. Wilson was subsequently terminated from the program for union activity, though when a grievance was filed to the Department of Labor the termination was upgraded to a "completion." Several other union supporters have been separated from Keystone since the IWW drive began, on grounds ranging from ill health (inflicted by the Keystone medical staff) to alleged disciplinary infractions.

The Philadelphia IWW plans to bring its mobile radio transmitter back to Drums over the coming months to broadcast the union message past the security guards who confiscate union literature. Several union supporters remain on base despite Keystone's intimidation and harassment, and they are determined to win the right to organize and exercise a meaningful say in the conditions of their work and training.

Libel suit against Wob dropped

Allegheny University for the Health Sciences, a 25-hospital chain in Pennsylvania, has dropped its libel lawsuit against *Guinea Pig Zero* editor and IWW member Robert Helms. Allegheny dropped the suit Oct. 8, one day before the first scheduled court date. The suit was in response to the reprinting in *Harper's Magazine* of an article from *GPZ* faulting Allegheny's treatment of human research subjects. Harper's settled with Allegheny, leaving FW Helms — who insists his account was true (though *Harper's* garbled it in their reprint) — to defend himself alone.

The suit received extensive coverage in the Philadelphia press. "They chickened out," Helms said, noting that witnesses were coming forward to substantiate his account.

Copies of the *Guinea Pig Zero* containing the original report are still available for \$3, from PO Box 42531, Philadelphia PA 19101. Subscriptions to the quarterly zine for human research subjects are \$10.

Anti-poverty organizers tour North America

Activists from Food Not Bombs and the Basque-based BALADRE are touring North America to organize against global austerity. Food Not Bombs is a group of volunteers who serve free food. BALADRE coordinates actions against "unemployment, poverty and social exclusion." For information contact: Keith McHenry, Food Not Bombs International Menu foodnotbombs@earthlink.net.

Finnish workers go Wobbly

Nearly two dozen workers met last month in Hameenlinna, about 140 kilometres north of Helsinki, and decided by consensus to seek a charter as a branch of the Industrial Workers of the World. A referendum is being prepared on a regional constitution and officers, following which they will formally affiliate.

These fellow workers are involved in publishing a newspaper, *Solidaarisuus*. They have been active in several campaigns, including the Nike boycott, and a campaign for the 30-hour work week, and are planning a campaign among workers consigned to the fast-increasing number of "shitwork" jobs, including a contest for "worst employer of the month."

For more information, email: antti.rautiainen@pp.kolumbus.fi

AFSC workers fight for IWW recognition

The weekend and evening front desk staff of the American Friends Service Center in Philadelphia has organized with the IWW. The Friends Center is a Quaker-run building that houses many progressive organizations and projects.

On September 2, our fellow workers asked for voluntary recognition from management. Instead of beginning to bargain in good faith, the Center's management and Board of Directors responded in typical union busting fashion — an appeal for the workers to reconsider their choice, labelling the union as a "third party" which would get in the way of communications between employees and management.

This outrageous suggestion, unbecoming to an organization with a reputation for advocating workers' rights such as the Friends, was answered by the workers in a letter which restated their commitment to being in the IWW and gave management one final chance to recognize the union before going to the NLRB. Other workers at the AFSC, who were organized by AFSCME several years ago, have expressed solidarity and continue to support this effort.

100,000 workers win pay raise in Ontario, Canada

Approximately 100,000 low-wage women workers in industries such as education and health care won equal pay with men through a court ruling in October.

The court struck down as unconstitutional a conservative state law which took away much of pre-existing 'pay equity' regulations. The state must now compare women's and men's wages for similar work across different workplaces and command bosses to pay equal wages.

Workers are waging a general campaign for increased standards of living in the midst of state austerity in Ontario. On September 27, 35,000 workers marched in North Bay against proposed labor laws and the state's instruction of school boards on how to break strikes.

Exotic dancers unionize

Dancer Susan Doyle was fired for attempting to organize the first exotic dancers union on the East Coast, but returned to work October 3 after two weeks of picketing outside Bensalem, Pennsylvania's Oakford Inn. Some customers — many of whom are union members themselves — joined her on the picket line.

Twenty-eight dancers signed a petition for union recognition over the summer to fight wage cuts and poor conditions.

"I'm going to walk in there with my dignity and show the girls you can't be fired for trying to form a union," Doyle said.

New collection documents WWI repression of IWW

The IWW is releasing a publication containing materials related to the repression of the IWW in the first U.S. Red Scare, 1917-1920. The cover reprints the GDC logo: "Fellow Workers: Remember! We are in here for you, you are out there for us," with a Wobbly pointing through cell bars.

The pamphlet consists of reprints from the *One Big Union Monthly* from 1919 and 1920, listing known arrests and cases re-

Book Review

lated both to federal "anti-espionage" act charges as well as state-level criminal syndicalism charges, over 1300 in all, including names, locations, dates and nature and disposition of charges at time of publication. These lists were compiled and published by the General Defense Committee of the IWW. There is both a main list and a series of related pieces including additional names and corrections and related information — all of it from the IWW on the ground as it was happening.

Also included are 128 "mug shots" of 127 fellow workers incarcerated at Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary in 1920 on federal charges (of sabotaging WWI efforts by conspiring to resist the draft and other alleged nefarious schemes) that essentially come down to having been members (along the lines of "are you now or have you ever been"). There are faces for several names you'll recognize, such as Vincent St. John (ex-GST), Ben Fletcher (IU510 Local 20, Philadelphia), Ralph Chaplin (songwriter and poet), George Speed (GEB Chair), and Walter T. Nef (Agricultural Workers IU400).

There are also many fellow workers whose names you don't know who made the same sorts of sacrifices in the course of organizing to defend and promote the interests of our class against our common oppressors. Unfortunately, gender segregation of prisons has the effect in this case that all these faces are of men — women's history as relates to these events will take further research. The interracial and immigrant-inclusive nature of the IWW is represented in these photos, though it's worth noting that those held for deportation as "foreign"-born were held separately at Ft. Douglas near Salt Lake City. It is perhaps also worth noting that there were also prisoners at Leavenworth being held for their involvement in (read kidnapped from) the Mexican Revolution, including Ricardo Flores Magon.

There is much more material of this sort out there, some of it from the same source as these photos and much of it scattered elsewhere. Because of this, and ongoing rank-and-file efforts to locate, reclaim and share such kinds of historical IWW info, this publication is being issued by the Historical Reclamation Project of the IWW.

The publication is 100 pages, and the photographs are (high-quality) photocopies of the actual photos. Copies are \$5 each.

The following is from the back cover:

"The history of the persecution that the General Defense Committee is thus gathering material for will be a document that will make the blood boil in the veins of all true Americans and all friends of liberty and justice all over the world.

"It will save from oblivion the names of the workers who sacrificed life or liberty in the worldwide struggle of humanity for liberation from the oppressors of ages — the owners of private property, the capitalist class of our day.

"Help the work along."

— William D. Haywood, Secretary
General Defense Committee
One Big Union Monthly March 1920

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The Wobbly

News from IU 330-Construction Workers

News is a bit slim this month as a lot of our FWs are on the road. Remember this column needs you to make it go. Call the Portland IWW and report!

Higgins Defense Campaign

As reported in the last Wobbly, UK wobs are still active in the Brian Higgins Defense Actions. Brian is the rank and filer being sued by a union bureaucrat as reported in the last IW. Portland, OR and Seattle GMBs have endorsed the Brian Higgins campaign and are starting an international campaign to stop this harassment.

For more information contact Portland IWW (Phone number below)

Movie Review- Riffraff

This isn't a new movie, it came out in 1993, but it just came out on video here in the US. This an older film by Ken Loach (*Land and Freedom*), which is well worth searching out.

The film is set amongst itinerant Building Trades workers in England. While gentrifying neighborhoods, they earn so little they need to squat housing. There are a number of heroes in the movie, including a rank-and-file militant who gets blacklisted by the union for complaining about conditions. This union collusion with the bosses makes for a unfortunate ending.

I can't recommend this film more highly. Any film that ranges from love, working-class rebellion, drugs, squatting and immigration can't be bad. An added bonus is the film is sub-titled from British English into American English!

Work Reports:

Butte- Asimi job, lousy conditions lots of people quitting

Great Falls, MT- Good work conditions on Air Force job

Kansas City- Auto Plants retooling, lots of work

Portland- Lots of work

San Mateo- Mixed reports

On the Road?

Remember the IWW is the One Big Union. Get involved where-ever you are by contacting the local IU 330 delegate listed below or General Membership Branch listed on page 2 of this newspaper.

On-Line: Portland IU 330 Branch is maintaining a World-Wide Web page at: www.teleport.com/~obu/330.html

IU 330 Delegates & Contacts

IWW Delegates can sign up new members and take dues. If you are already a member consider becoming a delegate by contacting IWW Headquarters.

UK - Ring IWW on 0116-266-1835
USA

Boston: Mark Dupont 508-584-9881

Butte: Dennis Georg 406-494-5837 e-mail dengeo@montana.com

Cape May Courthouse, NJ: Richard Neill, POB 261, Cape May Courthouse, NJ
Detroit: Jason 313-832-4074

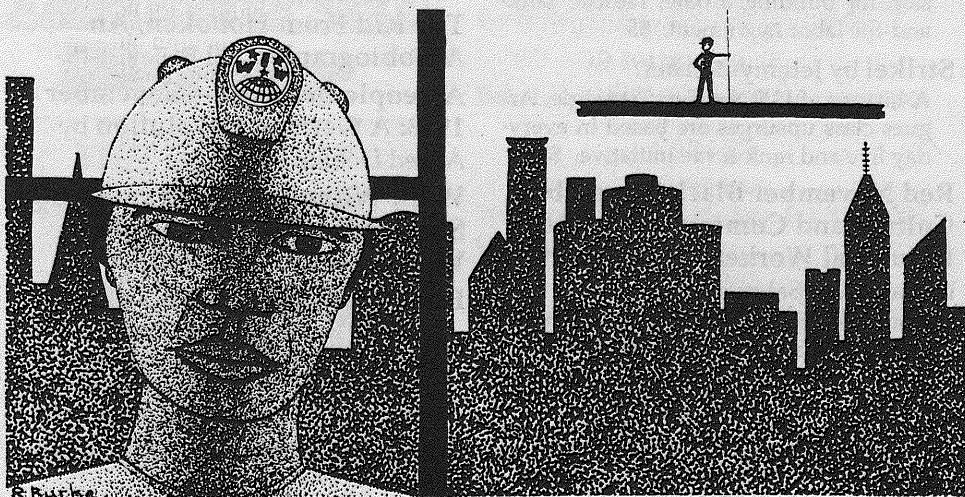
W. Michigan/N. Indiana: Patrick Klocke (Vicksburg, MI) 616-649-1214

Portland: Ian 503-650-7187 (voice mail)

Seattle/Tacoma: Mark 206-935-9012 or Paul Harris 425-271-0518

St. Louis: Tom Madden 314-647-2093

Got news for 330s? Wanna be a contact? Call the Portland IWW Hot-line at 503-650-7187 and leave a message. We'll call you back! Or mail POB 15005, Portland OR 97293 USA. E-mail obu@teleport.com



General Strike in Puerto Rico

Hundreds of thousands of Puerto Rican workers struck against privatization October 1. The governor's private telephone was disconnected as part of the protest.

Approximately 100 health clinics and hotels have already been sold and a proposed sellout of the telephone company threatens a few hundred workers' jobs.

In mid-July the governor was chased off a university campus by stone-throwing students who also oppose privatization.

The bosses fear a general rise in workers' action. "Today it's because they don't want to sell something. Tomorrow it'll be something else," the president of the national Chamber of Commerce reportedly told Associated Press.

Israeli unions cancel General Strike to obey courts

Over 500,000 workers struck across Israel September 28, but only for eight hours as union officials cancelled the action when state courts ordered them to. The strike was against privatization and "restructuring" and

the current government's breaking of a political deal between unions and the former government.

Workers roast state office to protest cutbacks in France

Several dozen shipyard workers burned the Mayor's office in Brest, France to protest planned cutbacks in military shipbuilding October 2. The workers face 1,500 job-losses by 1999. Approximately one third of Best's 170,000 people depend on state military contracts.

United Nations report admits capitalism hurts workers

The United Nations Commission on Trade and Development admitted in mid-September that "certain groups and classes are in absolute decline" and that "Growth and development do not automatically bring about a reduction in inequality."

The UN's report backs-up workers' experiences of depravity in the face of capitalist "growth."

AFL "revitalization" nowhere in sight

The AFL-CIO's late September convention opened with a call to battle "the tyranny of capitalism" and ended with a call to join "the class struggle." Those phrases came not from AFL-CIO officials, of course, but from Father Charlie Rice, Pittsburgh's legendary "labor priest," and Jesse Jackson.

The AFL-CIO returned to its tradition of Soviet-style congresses. John Sweeney, Richard Trumka and Linda Chavez-Thompson were re-elected by acclamation, and the length of their terms doubled to four years. There were no debates to speak of.

Yet the AFL's revitalization is off to a slow start. Since 1995 overall membership

levels are down by 102,000, though the percentage of decline is also reduced. Many piecards don't want to organize. *The Nation* quotes one American Federation of Teachers delegate who made this explicit: "Don't they realize [that] if they really push this organizing, the labor movement is going to wind up being a movement of strawberry pickers and chicken pluckers?"

But the piecards think they're doing great. "When it comes to organizing, we're winning again and we're winning big," Sweeney told delegates, adding that "more membership drives are under way than at any other time in my memory."

Education workers in global struggle

Teachers at Prairie State College won a 17% pay raise this September after 90% voted to strike if negotiations broke down. The 76 teachers wanted wages equal to teachers at other area community colleges.

Teachers strike in Kenya

"No Pay! No Chalk!" proclaimed 287,000 striking teachers in Kenya this October against state refusals for living wages. Students and people on the streets routinely joined strike demonstrations while millions of students were outside classes.

Meanwhile, at least one unionist has been "disappeared" by the state and protest letters are urgently requested. Send correspondence to: Attorney General, State Law Office, PO Box 40112, Nairobi, Kenya; Office of the President, Harambee House, PO Box 30510, Nairobi, Kenya; and the Kenyan Embassy in your country.

source: *International Centre for Trade Union Rights*, ictur@gn.apc.org

Teachers threaten general strike in Ontario, Canada

Tens of thousands of teachers rallied weekly in Ontario this October to threaten a general strike against a proposed education austerity law. The bosses claim there is not

enough funding to implement industry developments called for by the state. In return, the state is trying to provide even less funding, including through wage cutbacks in the form of fewer paid work hours.

Bosses force teachers to teach corporate marketing

The "educational" corporate television station Channel One is now directing teachers to integrate corporate marketing into their curricula. For example, educators are expected to instruct students on writing advertisements and design art for vending machines. Schools which suffer from state funding cutbacks have been particularly vulnerable to such corporate "sponsorships."

Students and teachers unite in Uruguay

Public school teachers and students are organizing direct actions against proposed educational "reforms" which they condemn as benefitting the World Bank by "creating young people with utilitarian knowledge, without the capacity for critical thought." The Secondary School Coordinator organization is reportedly planning building take-overs, street demonstrations and other protest actions.

A Labor Union

The Puget Sound (Washington) IWW has been circulating the following leaflet with measurable success:

A Labor Union

is an organization of workers which allows a voice in, or protection against workplace policies handed down by bosses and supervisors. Are you afraid of being fired? Having your hours cut, or piled on at the last minute? Are you paid a ridiculously low wage? Does your employer humiliate you in front of co-workers? Does the boss ignore you when you have a work related health problem?

A Boss will tell you that having a union to protect your rights, is like having two bosses, which is true about most AFL/CIO-

type unions. Your "representative" will file a "grievance" while you collect unemployment. A "negotiator" decides what you will do when your contract expires. On top of that, the dues are so expensive, what would be the point?

What if there was a union that had cheap dues, and would let you make all the decisions about how to handle your boss? What if you could learn how to organize at your job, and decide for yourself what to ask for? What if you could actually influence how the union was run, and elect the officials by a vote? Could a union put its power behind a group of workers on the job based on what they wanted?

Puget Sound IWW

Be a Wobbly — Join the IWW...

Real Democracy! All policy decisions are made by referendum. The IWW has just one (modestly) paid officer, the General Secretary-Treasurer. The 7-member General Executive Board is elected annually by the entire membership. All officers may be recalled by referendum. IWW workplaces and branches make their own decisions about bargaining and strategy.

To Join mail this form with a check or money order for initiation and first month's dues to IWW, 103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197, or contact your local delegate. **Dues:** Monthly income under \$800: \$5 per month; Income \$1,000-2,000: \$10 monthly; Over \$2,000: Dues \$15. Initiation Fee is same as one month's dues. A low-income worker can join for as little as \$10.00

☐ I affirm that I am a worker, and that I am not an employer.
☐ I agree to abide by the IWW constitution and regulations.
☐ I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.
Name: _____ Occupation: _____
Address: _____ City: _____
State/Prov.: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Membership includes a subscription to the Industrial Worker